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from sea to sea and the resistless courage of those brave sons of France, I feel the democracy of America is at work. And I am glad that now our own sons are to share in the crushing of autocracy. Our business is not to enforce democracy on Germany, but to "make the world safe for democracy," as President Wilson so wonderfully said. We believe that after this war the democratic forces of Germany will be given an opportunity to release that liberal Germany that has been repressed since 1815; that liberal Germany will anew come to a sense of those splendid ideals

which it used to teach the world; that the liberals of Germany will be able to establish a constitution that shall be a fit companion of the English, the American and the French constitutions; that out of this awful world struggle will come for all the world—for Germany most of all—the victory of those ideals which our fathers organized and defended, which we have embodied in our life, and which we and the British and the French have carried around the world—these ideals of a "government of the people, by the people and for the people."

BOOKS IN CAMP, TRENCH AND HOSPITAL*

BY THEODORE WESLEY KOCH, *Chief Order Division, Library of Congress*

ABRIDGED BY ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK

Books and magazines are being supplied in great numbers to the British troops through four agencies: (1) The British Red Cross and Order of St. John War Library; (2) The Camps Library; (3) The Young Men's Christian Association, and (4) The British Prisoners of War Book Scheme (Educational). With this paper, I am sending an exhibit of specimens of the kind of books and magazines which have proved most useful in entertaining and instructing the men. I have not sent standard authors, but rather literature popular with Tommy Atkins and Jack Tar, but unknown to most Americans.

No time should be lost in interesting those who have the means, the leisure and the executive ability to see that similar work is started at once in the United

States. Co-operation or affiliation with the British organizations should be considered.

1. The War Library

The night after the war had been declared, Mrs. H. M. Gaskell lay awake wondering how she could best help in the coming struggle. Recalling how much a certain book she had read during a recent illness had meant to her, she realized the value of providing literature for the sick and wounded. A few days later she dined with some friends and talked over this opportunity for service, with the result that Lady Battersea decided to lend her splendid mansion, Surrey House, Marble Arch, for the work.

The call for books was the first appeal of the war, and newspapers were glad to give their space and support free. To the surprise of the organizers the overworked volunteers were soon unable to keep up with the unexpected volume of gifts. It was necessary to hire empty wagons to stand at the door for the refuse, for many people had seized this as an opportunity to clean out their rubbish piles. To offset

*Mr. Koch's paper, written in London, has been published there by J. M. Dent & Sons, with preface by Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, president of the British Library Association, and a postscript by Dr. C. T. Hagberg Wright. (8vo. 48 pp. 1s. 6d.) With the exception of a few passages not received in time for insertion, Mr. Koch's paper was printed in the *Library Journal*, July, August, 1917. Supplementary chapters appeared in the *Library Journal* for October, 1917.

this, however, there were over a million well selected books, including rare editions which were sold and the money invested in the kind of books most needed.

The permanent hospitals were supplied with a library before the wounded arrived, and as the war area expanded the War Library followed with literature. Advertisements in American and Canadian newspapers brought gifts from across the water, and later, large consignments came from South Africa, Australia, Madeira, the Canary Islands and New Zealand. English publishers were more than generous.

In November, 1914, the War Library organization began to supply the sailors in the North Sea Fleet and boxes of books were sent to guards around the coasts. When the Camps Library was organized the originators of the War Library met with the promoters of the new scheme and discussed a division of labor. It was agreed that the War Library should look after the "unfit," while the new organization would take care of the "fit." This plan has worked well, but it has been hard to keep up with the demand. Relief came through the action of the Postmaster General, by whose orders the Postoffice now forwards reading material free. In October, 1915, the Red Cross and Order of St. John not only affiliated the War Library scheme with its organization, but became financially responsible for the undertaking. The library is now supplying East Africa, Bombay, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Saloniki and Malta monthly with thousands of books and magazines. Fortnightly parcels go to hospitals in France. To-day the organization is supplying approximately 1810 hospitals in Great Britain, 262 in France, 58 naval hospitals and hospital ships.

At the suggestion of Mr. Rudyard Kipling scrapbooks are used for patients too weak to hold books. The pages are filled with pictures interspersed with jokes, anecdotes and very short stories or poems. Comic postcards are also used. Pictures are always placed straight before the eye so that the invalid may not have to turn the scrap-book around, for many a patient

is too weak to lift his hand to know what the next page has in store for him. The books have been furnished in large numbers by a generous public. A games department has also been established. There is a never ceasing demand for playing-cards, dominos, draughts, and good jigsaw puzzles—even with a few pieces missing. Anything that can be packed flat is acceptable.

As to the kind of books the soldiers ask for, Mrs. Gaskell says: "Perhaps your eyes will be opened, as mine were, to new worlds of literature. Detective stories are shouted for; so is the bulldog breed, 'The Red Seal' and 'The Adventure' series; and all sorts of penny novelettes. Of course, all sevenpenny, sixpenny and shilling editions are invaluable from their handy size and good print. And for the favorite authors—they are nearly all in the sixpenny and sevenpenny series. All detective stories are hailed with joy. Poetry is in demand. The first and second sixpenny series of the 'Hundred Best Poems' go out in generous instalments; so do the 'Hundred Best Love Poems.' Shakespeare is preferred in single plays.

"There's a demand among the men for handbooks on trade-handicraft subjects; and maps are most acceptable. The officers ask for new six shilling novels and all kinds of lighter biographies, what Robert Louis Stevenson calls 'heroic gossip.' Travel books of all sorts are acclaimed; so, too, are the light-to-hold editions of Thackeray, Dickens, Poe, Kipling and Meredith."

An officer in charge of a casualty clearing hospital writes of the great joy in camp when he distributed the contents of a parcel among the patients. A popular paper-bound novel by Nat Gould lasts less than a week—a writer probably unknown to American librarians, but of whose books we are told by the publishers, over ten million copies have been sold. According to the *Athenaeum*, he is the most popular of living writers, and among the great of the past, Dumas alone surpasses him.

The routine handling of this material is

as follows: After unpacking, the books are stamped and sorted into various classes—like sevenpenny novels, sixpenny paper-bound novels, poetry, classics, religious and miscellaneous—and placed on different tables. Acknowledgements are made on a special card. The requests are entered in a daybook, with date, address and number of items to be sent. A label is written, consignment sheet made out, advice card attached, as well as a notice card to be hung up for reference in the hospital. These are all fastened together with a clip and placed in a box for the selectors. The selectors choose the books and magazines to be sent out, enclose the notice cards, fill in and address the advice card and place the selection, with the label, in a box for the packers. After the parcel is packed and addressed the label is attached, the address entered in the railway book, then advice card and consignment sheet are placed in a drawer until the railway company representative calls. When the parcels leave the library the advice cards are dated and posted, the consignment sheets filled and an index card is written for the hospital if one has not already been made. The number of parcels sent and the date are entered in the day-book, and the book containing the original entry is checked.

2. The Camps Library

The Camps Library owes its origin to the desire of the English to prepare in every way for the arrival of their oversea brethren. Col. Sir Edward Ward suggested that, among other things needed for the colonial troops, libraries be established for their use. The War Office approved, and the Hon. Mrs. Anstruther undertook the organization of the work. An appeal to the public quickly brought 30,000 books. Special tents fitted with rough shelving and tables were provided in the camps of the Canadian soldiers, and the chaplains undertook the care and the distribution of the books. Mrs. Gaskell comments on the curiously different appetite for books shown by the overseas contingent, remarking that the Canadians

have an insatiable desire for books of reference.

Large quantities of books and magazines were forwarded to the Australians and New Zealanders in Egypt. Then a much larger enterprise was launched; the provision of libraries for the camps of the Territorial and New Armies all over the United Kingdom. A large empty warehouse was equipped with shelves and tables and a further appeal was made to the public. The supply of books was ample at first, but with success came increased demands. Then came the realization that the men in the trenches and in convalescent and rest camps at the front also needed books. Consequently a system was organized by which, once a month, boxes were sent to every unit in the Expeditionary Force, 200 books to a battalion. Bales were also made up for the use of men on trains and transports.

Then the post offices throughout the country became collecting depots. Those wishing to send books to soldiers or sailors need only hand them unaddressed, unwrapped and unstamped, over the counter of any post office, and they are forwarded free of charge to headquarters for sorting, labeling and shipping to the troops. The literature sent in is distributed according to an agreed proportion of bags to the London Chamber of Commerce and the British and Foreign Sailors' Association for the use of the Navy; to the British Red Cross and Order of St. John War Library for the use of hospitals and hospital ships; the bulk goes to the Camps Library, which since the beginning of the war has dealt with over nine million publications. The Camps Library alone requires 75,000 pieces weekly.

The following is the system of distribution: Any commanding officer can call upon the Camps Library for bound books, which are sent in lots of one hundred in the proportion of one book to every six men. Automatically, once a month, no application being necessary, boxes or bales of books and magazines are sent to all units, in proportion to their strength.

Monthly supplies of magazines are sent to the bases for the use of the men entraining for the front. Chaplains receive on application a box once a fortnight or a bale once a month, and libraries have been formed at most of the prisoners' camps in Germany.

If anyone has a doubt as to whether these books and magazines are appreciated, a glance through the hundreds of letters kept at headquarters will dispel it. "The men all ask for pre-war magazines," says one officer. "It is nice to get away from it for a time." Again: "The last parcel of your books came just as we had been relieved after the gas attack, and there is nothing like a book for taking one's mind off what one has seen and gone through." "The lads were never so pleased in their lives as when I told them I had some books for them," is the way one lance-corporal puts it.

A regimental officer writes from Gallipoli that he considers it most important "to give the men some occupation in this monotonous and dull trench warfare." Men in Saloniki have requested a copy of a Greek history, their interest being awakened by the treasure of antiquity which they excavated while digging trenches. "It would give us great joy to get a few books on Syria and Palestine," says an army chaplain. "Men are hungry for information."

3. The Young Men's Christian Association

"Until the beginning of the war," writes F. A. McKenzie in the London *Daily Mail*, "the average citizen regarded the Y. M. C. A. as a somewhat milk-and-waterish organization, run by elderly men, to preach to youth. It does not do much preaching nowadays. It is too busy serving." The organization has emerged from a position of comparative obscurity into one of national prominence. Ever since the war broke out it has sent a constant stream of books and magazines to its huts at home and overseas. For nearly two years the Y. M. C. A. made its appeal through the **Camps Library**; but the demand increased so enormously that no single organization

could cope with it, and the Y. M. C. A. agreed to enter upon a book campaign of its own. In certain parts of the country, Y. M. C. A. book-days have been held, when by the aid of Boy Scouts, or a collection taken on the tramways, thousands of volumes have been secured for local huts.

The general libraries are intended to contain the best stories, poetry, travel, biography and essays, both classical and modern. Educational books are needed in every hut where lectures and classes are being carried on. A good devotional library is wanted for every Quiet Room. The Y. M. C. A. has taken over the work hitherto carried on by the Fighting Forces Book Council to provide literature of solid and educational value. The authorities feel that they need large numbers, not so much of school books or textbooks, as of brightly written reliable modern monographs like those in the "Home University Library." Notices were sent out in February, 1917, calling attention to the need for small pocket editions of good novels by standard authors; books of history, biography and travel; manuals of science; religious books; illustrated magazines; really good literature of all kinds, but not large or heavy books, and no old out-of-date ones.

Mr. A. St. John Adcock, the novelist and journalist, has described a visit he made to the Y. M. C. A. huts in France and in Flanders. "Wherever the troops go," said he, "the huts of the Y. M. C. A. spring up in the midst of them; or if you notice no huts it is because you are in the danger zone, and the Y. M. C. A. is carrying on its beneficent business as usual in dim cellars under shattered houses or in convenient dug-outs among the trenches. . . . There is always a library and, perhaps because books happen to be my own principal form of enjoyment, I always think it adds just the last touch of homeliness to the hut. And you may depend that thousands of soldiers think so, too. For one has only to remember that our armies today are like no armies that ever went to battle for us before. Most of our soldiers

in the Napoleonic wars, even in the Crimean War, did not require books, because they couldn't read; but the British, Canadian, Australasian and South African troops on service the world over are largely made up of men who were part of what we call the reading public at home."

A sergeant was anxious to know if Mr. Adcock could send him half-a-dozen copies of *Omar Khayyam*, which he would like to give to some of his men as Christmas presents. There were several Dickens enthusiasts in the camp. One who knew nothing of him before he went out, except the "Tale of Two Cities," had, since he had been in France, borrowed and read "David Copperfield" and "Great Expectations," and was now deep in "Our Mutual Friend." "He spoke of these stories," says Mr. Adcock, "as delightedly as a man might talk of the wonders of a newly discovered world." There is a surprising number of more serious readers who ask for Carlyle, Emerson, Lamb, Greene, Ruskin, Shakespeare, Tennyson—books which frequently cannot be supplied.

"I overtook a smart young soldier one afternoon on the fringe of one of the base camps," writes Mr. Adcock. "He limped slightly, and as we walked together I noticed a copy of Browning sticking out of his breast pocket, and remarked upon it. He drew the book from his pocket, and I noticed the Y. M. C. A. stamp on it. 'Yes,' he said, 'they've got some fine little libraries in the huts. They are a godsend to the chaps here. But I haven't been able to come across a Shelley or a Francis Thompson yet. I would like to read Thompson.'"

"The problem of dealing with conditions, at such a time, and under existing circumstances, at the rest camps, has always been a most difficult one," wrote General French from Headquarters, "but the erection of huts by the Young Men's Christian Association has made this far easier. The extra comfort thereby afforded to the men, and the opportunities for reading and writing have been of incalculable service." In view of all that this organization is doing

at the front, it is no wonder that the soldiers interpret the Y. M. C. A. sign as meaning "You Make Christianity Attractive."

4. British Prisoners of War Book Scheme (educational)

Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities, three Englishmen, held captive in the makeshift camp, formed out of the buildings attached to the race-course at Ruhleben, near Berlin, sent identical letters to three friends in Great Britain asking that serious books be sent them for purposes of study. This led to a system of book supply for prisoners of war in Germany. The Camp Education Department was organized, and an appeal to the public was sanctioned by the President of the Board of Education. Within the first year about 9,000 educational books were forwarded to Ruhleben. The 200 lecturers and their pupils, gathered from the 4,000 civilians interned there, now have an excellent library to draw from. The foreign office then approved steps taken to extend the plan to other camps.

This book scheme does not overlap the work of any other war organization. "It will be a matter of surprise to many," says Mr. Alfred T. Davies, "to learn that, for over a year and a half, some 200 lecturers and teachers and 1,500 students, organized in nine different departments of study, have been busily at work in the camp, and that there is perhaps as much solid work going on there as can be claimed to-day by any university in the British Empire."

The educational work of the camp is suited to three classes: (1) Those whose internment has interrupted their preparations for examinations; (2) Those who already had entered upon a commercial or professional career; (3) Those who are pursuing some form of learning for learning's sake. Interned men who attend classes may secure under certain conditions a recognition of their work when they return home. A record form has been drawn up for use in the camps, for the purpose of obtaining and preserving

authenticated details of the courses of study pursued. If a man wants to become a master, mate, engineer in the mercantile marine, skipper or second hand of a fishing vessel, and is willing to devote a few hours a day to study in a camp he can thus have this work counted towards his certificate.

The Ruhleben Camp started a library of its own on Nov. 14, 1914, with 83 books. By July, 1915, there were 2,000 English and American magazines, 300 German books and 130 French books. On the average 250 books a day were taken out. As they had a printer in camp, they decided to print a catalog. The demands that come in now at the enlarged library are varied and curious. Books in fourteen languages have been asked for and supplied. Dictionaries and books on electricity and engineering are constantly in demand. The aim of the organization is to provide every prisoner with exactly the book or books he may desire or need, on any subject or in any language. Bishop Bury, who visited the camp officially, said that there was so much studying going on that he called it the University of Ruhleben. The interned men publish a magazine "In Ruhleben Camp," in which are reflected the various currents of thought among the prisoners.

The committee in charge of the British Prisoners of War Book Scheme is also considering a plan whereby released prisoners in poor circumstances, and especially those living in rural districts and remote parts of the British Isles, will be able to obtain the loan, for the purposes of study, of books which they cannot afford to buy,

and which they cannot borrow from a nearby public library.

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The foregoing is an account of the principal channels through which books are supplied to the troops, but books are also being printed for the fighting men and sent to them at the front by several religious denominations and Bible societies. The secretary of the Religious Tract Society informs me that their organization has supplied the troops with books in twenty-six languages. Thus, they printed selections from the Bible in Malagasi for the men called over by the French, and a book of prayers and songs in three languages for the colored laborers from South Africa. As an illustration of the educational work they have been able to do, mention may be made of a grant they gave a chaplain in the navy who was reading Greek with a stoker on his boat. At the outbreak of the war the stoker of today had been attending college with the idea of preparing himself for the nonconformist ministry. To a German prisoner of war in the Isle of Man the Tract Society had sent upon request some aids to the study of the New Testament.

Another British organization exists solely for the purpose of supplying books to the Russian prisoners of war in Germany. But the story of what it has been able to accomplish had best be told by one of the leading spirits in all things connected with Russian literature in England—Dr. C. Hagberg Wright, librarian of the London Library—and he has kindly written a special article on this phase of the work.

BOOKS FOR THE RUSSIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

By C. T. HAGBERG WRIGHT. *Librarian, London (Eng.) Library*

When a sleeper wakes from a long, unbroken slumber to find himself in a strange environment he is usually slow to realize his novel surroundings. Escape being impossible, he sets about fitting himself for

the work in store, but he does so with misgivings and manifold mistakes. So England, waking to a state of war and striving to meet the demands of unforeseen and terrible conditions, has blundered,